

this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, continuing its occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, and undermining United States and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Syria continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 11, 2004, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond May 11, 2005. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency blocking the property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation or reexportation of certain goods to Syria.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 5, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., May 9, 2005]

NOTE: This notice will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 10.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency Blocking Property of
Certain Persons and Prohibiting the
Export of Certain Goods to Syria**
May 5, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in

the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation and reexportation of certain goods to Syria, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2005, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

The actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, undermining United States and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq, and with respect to Lebanon pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency authorizing the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation and reexportation of certain goods to Syria, and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Memorandum on Designation of
Officers of the Office of Personnel
Management To Act as Director of
the Office of Personnel Management**
May 5, 2005

*Memorandum for the Director of the Office
of Personnel Management*

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office
of Personnel Management to Act as Director
of the Office of Personnel Management

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Director), or the Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Personnel Management, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

General Counsel;
 Chief of Staff;
 Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison;
 Director, Office of Congressional Relations;
 Associate Director, Human Resources Products and Services;
 Associate Director for Management;
 Associate Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy;
 Chief Financial Officer;
 Associate Director, Human Capital Leadership and Merit Systems Accountability;
 Deputy Associate Director, Center for Investigations Services; and
 Director, Federal Executive Institute.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

Sec. 3. Prior Memorandum Superceded.

This memorandum supercedes the Presidential Memorandum of March 11, 2003, entitled, “Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management to Act as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.”

Sec. 4. Publication.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

May 5, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2006 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, and the Treasury; and the United States-Canada Alaska Rail Commission. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2006 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

This transmittal also contains FY 2006 budget amendments and an FY 2005 proposal for the legislative branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the legislative branch are commonly transmitted without change.

The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Interview With Latvian Television

May 4, 2005

Latvia-U.S. Relations

Q. So there is no secret that you were a jet pilot, so how would you describe, in a couple of sentences, where is Latvia on your radar?

The President. That’s very interesting. Latvia is a close friend. Latvia is a country that has made a big difference in important alliances to the United States, like NATO. I remember when the moment came when the countries—the new countries admitted to NATO came into the room that I was sitting in, and I turned to the person I was sitting next to and said, “It’s going to be so